

1 **5. (currently amended)** A method employed in a distributed database system that  
2 includes a plurality of database systems for responding to a request received in a  
3 particular database system of the plurality,  
4 the method comprising the steps performed during execution of the request in the  
5 particular database system of:  
6 determining ~~that whether~~ the execution of the request is preferably ~~executed~~ done  
7 at least in part in another database system of the plurality; and  
8 if that is the case, redirecting that part of the execution ~~of at least the part of the~~  
9 ~~request to~~ the other database system.

1 **6. (presently amended)** The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:  
2 the request includes one or more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a  
3 plurality thereof in the distributed database system; and  
4 the step of determining whether the execution of the request is preferably  
5 ~~executed~~ done in the other database system determines that an object required for  
6 execution of the request is lacking in the particular database system.

1 **7. (currently amended)** The method set forth in claim 5 further comprising the steps of:  
2 placing the request in a form required for execution in the particular database  
3 system;  
4 modifying the form when it has been determined that the request is preferably  
5 executed at least in part in ~~another~~ the other database system; and  
6 in the step of redirecting, the modified form is redirected.

1 **8. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 7 wherein:  
2 the request includes an SQL statement;  
3 the form required for execution is a cursor; and  
4 in the step of modifying the form, the cursor is marked for redirection.

1    **9. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 7 wherein:  
2           the request includes a call to a procedure object; and  
3           in the step of modifying the form, the call is rewritten in the form required for  
4    execution as a remote procedure call directed to the other database system.

1    **10. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3    performs the method set forth in claim 5.

1    **11. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3    performs the method set forth in claim 6.

1    **12. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3    performs the method set forth in claim 7.

1    **13. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3    performs the method set forth in claim 8.

1    **14. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3    performs the method set forth in claim 9.

1    **15. (currently amended)** Apparatus that redirects at least a part of a request received in  
2    a particular database system belonging to a distributed database system to another  
3    database system in the distributed database system,

4 the apparatus comprising:  
5 a request analyzer in the particular database system that determines that the  
6 request is preferably executed at least in part in the other database system; and  
7 a redirector in the particular database system that redirects execution of at least  
8 the part of the request to the other database system.

1 **16. (currently amended)** The apparatus set forth in claim 15 wherein:  
2 the request analyzer places the request in a form required for execution in the  
3 particular database system and causes the form to be modified when the request is  
4 preferably executed at least in part in the other database system; and  
5 the redirector redirects the modified form.

1 **17. (previously presented)** The apparatus set forth in claim 16 wherein:  
2 the request includes an SQL statement;  
3 the request analyzer includes the SQL statement in a cursor that the request  
4 analyzer causes to be marked for redirection; and  
5 the redirector redirects the marked cursor.

1 **18. (previously presented)** The apparatus set forth in claim 16 wherein:  
2 the request includes a call to a procedure object; and  
3 the redirector causes the call to be rewritten in a form required for execution as  
4 a remote procedure call directed to the other database system.

1 **19 (currently amended)** The apparatus set forth in claim 15 wherein:  
2 the request includes one or more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a  
3 plurality thereof in the distributed database system and  
4 the request analyzer determines that an object required for execution of the  
5 request is lacking in the particular database system.

1    **20. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an  
3    apparatus as set forth in claim 15.

1    **21. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an  
3    apparatus as set forth in claim 16.

1    **22. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an  
3    apparatus as set forth in claim 17.

1    **23. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an  
3    apparatus as set forth in claim 18.

1    **24. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an  
3    apparatus as set forth in claim 19.